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Rewald Out of Job Behind in Payment, Faces Possible Arrest

By Charles Memminger
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Ronald Rewald, out of a job and in the government debt in a way, may be arrested again.

The U.S. attorney's office contends Rewald is at least \$1,000 behind in his payment to cover court costs for his defense. A hearing was scheduled for today to review Rewald's bail conditions.

Rewald, according to affidavits filed in federal court, has quit working for Ronald Kauffman in California because Kauffman has failed to pay his agreed-upon salary — \$4,000 a month.

Kauffman says he didn't pay Rewald the full amount because Rewald has not been working full time.

Rewald has been unable to work full time because of a back injury, according to Rewald's attorney, Michael Levine. Rewald recently underwent back surgery to remove a fragmented disc and is recovering in bed.

Because of the injury, Levine said, Rewald is unable to attend today's hearing.

Rewald went to work for Kauffman as a consultant after Kauffman bought the rights to Rewald's life story. The relationship, however, has collapsed because Rewald has been unable to work.

"IT BECAME obvious after much discussion that my services to him (Kauffman) have become a significant burden," Rewald said.

Rewald claims that the FBI has been harassing Kauffman and his customers.

Levine is convinced that the government just wants Rewald sent back to prison, pending trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Peyton said the government just wants Rewald to abide by his bail conditions. But he said he will ask that U.S. marshals be sent to California to take Rewald into custody if he did not show up today.

According to the bail conditions, Rewald is supposed to pay one-fourth of his income to the courts to help defer the cost of his court-appointed defense attorneys.

Rewald had said he was making \$4,000 as an employee of Voyager Communications, Kauffman's company. In an updated financial report, Rewald said he is only making \$2,000 a month. Rewald also said he is paying \$1,200 rent, \$975 in utilities and other expenses that add up to more than \$2,000 a month.

Levine said Rewald is complying with the bail conditions, paying 25 percent of what he has actually received in salary.